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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,893	10/19/2001	Vernon E. McGeorge JR.	10016751	7315

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Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAM LINH T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/981,893

**Applicant(s)**

MCGEORGE, VERNON E.

**Examiner**

CamLinh Nguyen

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 2, 4 - 16, 18 - 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 2, 4 - 16, 18 - 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. This Office Action is response to the Request for Continue Examination filed on 3/2/2005.
2. Applicant's amendments to claims 1 – 20 are acknowledged. Consequently, claims 3 and 17 are cancelled, and claim 1, 5, 9, 15, 19 are amended. Claims 1 – 2, 4 – 16, 18 – 20 are currently pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 – 2, 4 – 16, 18 – 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim Nitahara (U.S. 6,604,108 B1) in view of Kojima et al (U.S. 6,681,227 B1).

◆ As per claims 1, 9 – 10, 15

Nitahara (U.S. 6,604,108) discloses a method for managing data from multiple data sources comprising:

- “Maintaining database tables in individual data contexts, wherein the database tables contain data from multiple data sources” See Fig. 1 – 3, col. 4, lines 30 – 49 of Nitahara.

In particular:

- “Maintaining database tables in individual data contexts” corresponds to database tables that stored in “information Mart storage” in fig. 1. The data are organized

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by identifiers with predefined subjects and attributes as seen in Fig. 2 – 3 of Nitahara.

- “The database tables contain data from multiple data sources” See col. 2, lines 33 – 45 of Nitahara.
- Applicant does not clearly define the meaning of the “conduit”. However, referring to the “Detailed description” section, lines 15 – 16, the “conduits” corresponds to the “layer of abstraction between a data model and the presentation of the data to a user”. As shown in Fig. 1, Nitahara discloses a multiple remote storage system that can contain multiple data model. The Information mart storage is a “layer of abstraction” between the data model (remote storage) and the presentation of the data to a user.
- “ Appending a source identifier as a key field to the data before combining the database tables into larger tables in a display context so that name spaces of the data are unique within each data context” See Fig. 2 – 3 of Nitahara. Each file has a unique identifier and is associated with corresponding subject (col. 4, lines 34 – 35, col. 12, lines 53 - 55 of Nitahara). The structure of the information mart is based on a predefined hierarchy of subjects that related to the enterprise for which information for analysis is to be provided (col. 5, lines 12 – 15 of Nitahara). Further, the structure of the information mart is based on a predefined set of relational attributes (col. 5, lines 43 – 62 of Nitahara). Referring to Fig. 5, the content file identifier includes the relational attribute identifier, source identifier. Accordingly, the files or the resources must be determined and are organized or appended into the subjects before other operation if they have the same type or

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attributes (col. 5, lines 63 – 67 of Nitahara). “Combining the database tables into larger tables in the display context without violating relational database rules” See Fig. 14, col. 11, lines 14 – 15 of Nitahara.

- “A user interface” See Fig. 9 – 11, 14 of Nitahara.
- “Enabling the user to modify the data through the conduits” col. 8, lines 20 – 61 of Nitahara.

Nitahara, unfortunately, does not clearly disclose that the data in one source has a same identifier as a duplicate data in another data source, and merging the database table into one larger table by blending the data from the multiple data sources.

However, on the other hand, Kojima discloses a database system for data retrieval. Kojima teaches pluralities of table are maintained in the databases (see Fig. 1). As seen in Fig. 1, tables A, B, and C have common key as a1, b1, and c1 (see col. 2, lines 4 – 26 of Kojima). Therefore, Kojima does teach “the data in one source has a same identifier as a duplicate data in another data source”. Further Kojima teaches that the three tables are merged into one larger table (see Fig. 1, col. 15, lines 58 – 61 of Kojima).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teaching of Kojima into the invention of Nitahara because the combination would increase the consistency among tables, and provide the user better view of data in different data sources.

◆ As per claims 2, 11, 16, the combination of Nitahara and Kojima disclose:

- “Displaying the data from multiple data sources in the display context” See Fig. 14, col. 11, lines 14 – 15 of Nitahara.

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- ◆ As per claims 4 – 8, 13 – 14, 18 – 20, the combination of Nitahara and Kojima disclose:
  - “Requesting notifications for data changes in the display context by the conduits”,  
“notifying the conduits of the changes”, and “updating the data” See col. 7, lines 20 – 30,  
claims 2 – 4 of Nitahara.
  - “Updating automatically” corresponds to “periodic updating”.
- ◆ As per claims 12, the combination of Nitahara and Kojima disclose:
  - “The conduit has logical connections to the data sources that includes one or more actual  
connections” see Fig. 1 of Nitahara.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 2, 4 – 16, 18 - 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CamLinh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4024. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

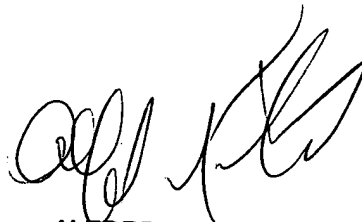
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nguyen, Cam-Linh

LN



**ALFORD KINDRED**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**